AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a transgenic mouse ~~which overexpresses a polypeptide having platelet-derived growth factor C (PDGF-C) activity and develops hypertrophy or fibrosis in at least one of its organs in its life time~~, the method comprising the steps of:

a) introducing a transgenic DNA into a mouse cell, said transgenic DNA comprising a polynucleotide sequence operably linked to a suitable heart-specific promoter, said polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2;

b) allowing said cell from step a) to develop into a transgenic mouse,

wherein said cell of step a) is a pronuclei of a fertilized oocyte, said method further comprising implanting said fertilized oocyte into a pseudopregnant mouse; or

wherein said cell of step a) is an embryonic stem cell; said DNA is integrated into a genomic DNA of said embryonic stem cell; and said embryonic stem cell is introduced into a developing embryo, and

wherein the transgenic mouse overexpresses a polypeptide having platelet-derived growth factor C (PDGF-C) activity and develops myocyte hypertrophy or heart fibrosis during its life time.

2-4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said promoter is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ an alpha-myosin heavy chain promoter~~, keratin K14 promoter, and insulin promoter~~.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transgenic DNA is operably linked to an epitope tag.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the epitope tag is c-myc.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transgenic DNA is operably linked to a marker sequence.

9. (previously presented) The mouse produced by the method of claim 1.

10-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A transgenic mouse that is a descendant from the mouse according to claim 9.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The mouse according to Claim 9, wherein the mouse is homozygous with regard to the transgenic DNA.

15. (previously presented) A cell isolated from a mouse according to claim 9.

16-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A fertilized mouse oocyte containing ~~transgenic DNA~~ a polynucleotide molecule that comprises a heart-specific promoter and that encodes a polypeptide comprising ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

19. (currently amended) A mouse embryonic stem cell containing ~~transgenic DNA~~ a polynucleotide molecule that encodes a polypeptide comprising ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (currently amended) A method for identifying a compound as a PDGF-C antagonist, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

introducing ~~said~~ a candidate compound into a transgenic mouse according to Claim 9; and

monitoring ~~*in vitro*~~ a biological activity of PDGF-C in ~~an isolated cell from~~ said mouse; ~~and~~

wherein inhibition of the ~~identifying said compound as a PDGF-C antagonist where~~ PDGF-C biological indicates that the candidate compound is a PDGF-C antagonist ~~is inhibited~~.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A method for identifying a compound as a PDGF-C antagonist, said method comprising the steps of:

exposing to said compound a cell isolated from a transgenic mouse according to Claim 9;

assaying an effect of said compound on a PDGF-C activity of said cell *in vitro*; and

identifying said compound as a PDGF-C antagonist where the PDGF-C biological activity of said cell is altered.

23. (currently amended) A method of screening for a compound for inhibition of hypertrophy, comprising the steps of:

administering a ~~pharmaceutically active amount of said~~ candidate compound to a transgenic mouse according to Claim 9; and

monitoring cardiac development of said mouse;

~~determining said compound inhibits hypertrophy where~~ wherein inhibition of ~~said~~ cardiac development ~~is inhibited~~ when compared to a control transgenic mouse in the absence of said candidate compound indicates that the candidate compound inhibits hypertrophy.

24. (currently amended) A method of screening for a compound for inhibition of fibrosis, comprising the steps of:

administering a ~~pharmaceutically active amount of said~~ candidate compound to a transgenic mouse according to Claim 9 ~~26~~; and

monitoring cardiac development of said mouse;

~~determining said compound inhibits fibrosis where~~ wherein inhibition of ~~said~~ cardiac development ~~is inhibited~~ when compared to a control transgenic mouse in the absence of said candidate compound indicates that the candidate compound inhibits fibrosis.

25. (currently amended) A transgenic mouse according to Claim 9, wherein the mouse is heterozygous with regard to the transgenic DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

26-28. (cancelled)

29. (new) A method for producing a transgenic mouse, the method comprising the steps of:

a) introducing a transgenic DNA into a mouse embryonic stem cell, said transgenic DNA comprising a polynucleotide sequence operably linked

to a suitable promoter, said polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2, and

b) introducing said embryonic stem cell into a developing embryo which is allowed to develop into a transgenic mouse,

wherein the transgenic mouse overexpresses a polypeptide having platelet-derived growth factor C (PDGF-C) activity and develops hypertrophy or fibrosis in at least one of its organs in its life time.